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GENE POOL

"Scientists announced today the successful introduction of human genes to beef cattle."

— Philadelphia Inquirer

At first, we noted only that the cattle produced leaner meat and less fatty milk. These results were, of course, the sought outcome of this experiment.

"But something went wrong with this means of augmenting the diner's delight and comforting the consumer," as the poem goes.

Strange observations began to come in from our farmers. These cattle, they said, did not act as other cattle.

Some steers were seen "abstracted," listening to birdsong. Others seemed "depressed" over rainy weather, "delighted" on sunny days.

A few evidenced uncowlike "signs of speculation," according to the observers. Treated cattle "exhibited repugnance" when their untreated fellows chewed regurgitated grass.

Some "sought privacy" to defecate. Experimental cows

"went mad and melancholic" when separated from their calves.

I've seen these beeves. They are like all cattle. Our observers are misinterpreting ordinary bovine behavior.

However, I felt the flavor of the meat was a bit off. I recommend further experimentation.

(Quotation, second stanza: M. Benedikt,
"The Meat Epitaph")

"KALASHNIKOV" STREET

My neighbor makes the best sub-machine guns on our street. I do not dispute his mastery of this art.

But there is a time for machine guns and a time for shotguns ... and I make the best.

Look! with its short barrels and pistol grip stock, how easy to conceal!! Beneath a loose shirt, you can't see it at all!

Machine guns are fine — for ambush at medium range, but my shotguns do for surprise, close-up — individual.

I am proud to work on the Street. Everyone here makes guns and everyone here is a master of the trade.

We make purse guns, revolvers, automatics, assault rifles (best in the country!), heavy machine guns, mortars and more.

We make, sell and use these guns because custom mandates revenge and revenge demands guns.

It is the custom, also, to build high towers. If we are offended by a man and he hides, we climb the tower and wait.

Sooner or later, we get a clear shot. My father "went to the tower" for a whole year once. This is hard on a man.

Watching, watching, watching is labor, The towers are hot during the day, freezing at night.

My father suffered as the stylite saints of old suffered but he got results. Now, Outsider, see how it is with us: